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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 040894-7167

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Toshio SHIMIZU et al. )  
Application No.: Unassigned ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Filed: January 24, 2005 ) Examiner: Unassigned  
)

For: STAPLER AND CARTRIDGE

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached. The follow document are in a language other than English.

a. Japanese Patent Publication No. 7-15280: In lieu of a statement of relevance, the Search Report from the PCT application from which the present application is a national stage is attached.

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This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of any such document. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 24, 2005

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)	Attorney Docket No. 040894-7167	Serial No. Unassigned <b>10/522178</b>
PTO Form 1449	Applicants Toshio SHIMIZU et al.	
	Filing Date January 24, 2005	Group Unassigned

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**


Examiner	Date Considered
Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	